



MH Weekly Update July 10, 2007

Film Premiere of “Work and Recovery”

On Friday June 29, 2007 the short film, “Work and Recovery” premiered at City Hall’s Contois Auditorium in Burlington, Vermont. Opening remarks were presented by the Commissioner of Mental Health, Michael Hartman; the Howard Center’s Director of Community Rehabilitation and Treatment, Paul Landerl; the Project Director of the Matrix Center at Horizon House in Philadelphia, Dr. Barbara Granger; and Vermont’s Supported Employment Project Coordinator, Laura Flint. A brief discussion by the audience followed the film.

The film is about employment and the tremendous meaning it has for people living with mental illness. It is also about recovery. The film tells the courageous stories of five people who have received evidence-based employment supports from Westview Employment Services at the Howard Center. These men and women speak honestly and eloquently about how work has helped them in their personal recoveries. Employers speak about the benefits and partnerships that have developed as a result of working with these individuals.

“Work and Recovery” will be placed on the web and downloadable for free in the near future. The main purpose of the film is to provide education regarding employment for people with psychiatric disabilities.

Film production was sponsored by the Matrix Center at Horizon House, Inc. (<http://www.hhinc.org>) and interviews were facilitated by Westview Employment Services at the Howard Center. Funding for the film was made possible through a grant from the Center for Global Partnership of the Japan Foundation and in part by the Collaborative on Community Integration’s Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at the University of Pennsylvania (<http://www.upennrrtc.org>). In addition, the film will be translated into Japanese for distribution throughout Japan.

The film premiere ended a visit by Satomi Nakahara from Tokyo, Japan and Dr. Eri Kuno from UPenn. Both were visiting Vermont to learn more about Evidence-based Supported Employment in order to expand employment services for people with psychiatric disabilities in Japan.

*For more information about **Evidence-Based Supported Employment** please visit:*
<http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/cmhs/communitysupport/toolkits/employment/>

FUTURES PROJECT

DMH Visiting All Vermont Hospitals

The Department of Mental Health has initiated visits to all of Vermont's hospitals to meet with the leadership of each hospital and the management staff of emergency departments. The series of visits began with those hospitals that do not provide inpatient psychiatry services, exploring how each hospital sees its overall role in helping to address the mental health and substance abuse needs of the communities they serve. Hospital leaders have welcomed these conversations with Michael Hartman, Beth Tanzman, and Bill McMains, representing DMH, and all have found them to be most informative and productive. The visits underway will provide a fresh assessment of hospitals' interest in partnering with the State to provide successor inpatient psychiatry programs to VSH. They also offer DMH further insights concerning hospital emergency room responses to mental health and substance abuse issues.

Futures Advisory Committee Meets July 23rd

The Advisory Committee agenda features two major discussions central to the Futures project planning process. All are urged to attend. The agenda is posted on the Web site.

New Developments at Rutland Regional Medical Center

The Rutland hospital is rebuilding its inpatient psychiatry program and looking to the future. A new leadership team is implementing consumer-centered approaches to care and treatment in its existing unit. Jeff McKee, Director of Psychiatric Services, will describe their proposal to add 6 more beds and renovate existing space. Changes to the facility's structure and treatment milieu would essentially double its capacity by allowing the hospital to take advantage of usable space. Currently licensed for 19 beds, unit capacity has been limited to about 10-12 with little flexibility to exceed that number and still maintain clinical quality. The proposed renovations plus 6 new beds would increase the Rutland hospital's inpatient psychiatric capacity up to 25 beds.

Dr. McKee, a licensed clinical psychologist, has put together a new leadership team, including two full-time psychiatrists, a director of nursing, and a manager of social work services.

CEO Tom Huebner and Jeff McKee will present their plan to partner with the State for a successor inpatient program to the Vermont State Hospital at the Advisory Committee's July 23 meeting.

Architectural Design Concepts for Successor Inpatient Programs

Frank Pitts, consultant to the Department of Buildings and General Services for the Futures Project, will present the preliminary planning concepts for the program of space of the new inpatient facilities for further refinement and discussion by the stakeholder community. Mr. Pitts, who is the Principal Architect of Architecture+, has extensive experience in designing inpatient mental health facilities. His presentation will illustrate how the configuration of space for inpatient services can promote the treatment goals of recovery.

This initial presentation of the environment of care will include such things as: the layout of patient bed and bath rooms; unit design to maximize safe and secure movement of patients in

an unrestricted manner; a mix of quiet and active socialization space; flexible design to accommodate changes in census according to gender and levels of patient acuity; and the creation of an open and inviting space with much natural light. Content from the discussion will inform design development in the next stages of the planning process.

VERMONT INTEGRATED SERVICES INITIATIVE (VISI)

VISI is pleased to be working with Vermont's seven PATH providers. Most PATH providers are either shelters or daytime drop in centers. They typically provide services for people who are least likely to engage in the traditional service system. Most are experiencing homelessness, many are chronically homeless and a majority have both mental health and substance use conditions. VISI will work with the PATH providers to increase outreach, screening and referral for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions. VISI will track outcomes by using the Human Services Management Information System, Service Point.

VISI Peer Program

The following video and discussion series is sponsored by the Vermont Integrated Services Initiative (VISI), Friends of Recovery-VT (FOR-VT) and the Vermont Psychiatric Survivors (VPS). The service will be held each Wednesday evening from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at 94 Main St., Montpelier. The next two videos in this series are:

- 7/18 *Recovery Stories-*** This is a training video on co-occurring mental health and substance use recovery.
- 7/25 *Addictions and Mental Illness-*** This program profiles two individuals dually diagnosed and their recovery process. Mental health professionals discuss co-occurring issues.

Meetings

On Wednesday, July 11 at 2:00 there will be a Peer Consultation meeting. The primary focus of this meeting will be the discussion of the Peer Conference on September 28th. This meeting is done via telephone conference.

On July 20 at 9:30 a.m., there will a workforce development committee meeting at the Cyprian Center in Waterbury.

On July 27 at 2:00, there will be a Financial Planning Committee meeting. This meeting will focus on reimbursement strategies for people with co-occurring conditions. This meeting is done via telephone conference

On August 2 from 11:30 to 2:00, there will be a Clinical Practices committee meeting. The meeting location TBA.

On August 10 at 9:30 am there will be a VISI Steering Committee meeting at the Langevin House on the Vermont Technical Center's campus in Randolph.

To connect to these meetings or to join the committee please contact Paul Dragon at 652-2020.